

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing comprising:
an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces;
a skin adherent, facing layer having a distal surface connected to at least a portion of the proximal surface of the absorbent core, wherein said facing layer has a center portion and a border portion bordering the center portion, the center and border portions having different degrees of skin adherence relative to one another; and
wherein the center portion of the facing layer is an elastomeric gel directly secured to the absorbent core, ~~and defines~~ the center portion defining a pattern of apertures extending therethrough to the absorbent core and formed irrespective of the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the degree of skin adherence corresponding to the center portion of the facing layer is less than the degree of skin adherence along the border portion.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the center and border portions define two concentric sections located at different distances from a central axis of the wound dressing.

Claim 4. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the degree of skin adherence of the facing layer gradually increases from a central axis of the facing layer towards the periphery thereof.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the skin adherence of the facing layer gradually increases from the border portion to the periphery of the center portion.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the facing layer is substantially planar along the distal surface thereof.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core is generally circular and the center and border portions are concentric.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing comprising:
an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces;
a skin adherent, ~~apertured~~ facing layer having a distal surface directly and adjacently secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, wherein said facing

layer has at least two discrete sections having varying degrees of skin adherence along a proximal surface thereof, the facing layer having at least one pattern of apertures formed irrespective to the proximal surface of the absorbent core; and

wherein the at least two discrete sections of the facing layer are separate, continuous sheets ~~of elastomeric gel~~ such that the center portion is formed from a generally hydrophobic silicone-based material.

Claim 11. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, further comprising a first discrete section of the facing layer corresponding to a central portion of the facing layer and a second discrete section of the facing layer corresponding to a border portion of the facing layer, said second discrete section having greater skin adherence than the first discrete section.

Claim 12. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 11, wherein the second discrete section is substantially concentric to the first discrete section.

Claim 13. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 11, further comprising a third discrete section of the facing layer interposed between first and second discrete sections of the facing layer, said third discrete section having a degree of skin adherence between the degrees of skin adherence of the first and second discrete sections.

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 13, wherein the first and third discrete sections include apertures, the apertures of the first discrete section being larger than the apertures of said third section.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the proximal surface of the facing layer is substantially planar.

Claim 17. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the skin adherence of each discrete section of the facing layer is substantially uniform.

Claim 18. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the skin adherence of each discrete section varies transversely across the width thereof.

Claim 19. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the facing layer is substantially planar along the distal surface thereof.

Claim 20. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the absorbent core is generally circular, the at least two sections of the facing layer being generally concentric with one another.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces;

a skin adherent, facing layer having a distal surface connected to at least a portion of the proximal surface of the absorbent core, wherein said facing layer has a center portion and a border portion bordering the center portion, the center and border portions having different degrees of skin adherence relative to one another; and

wherein the center portion of the facing layer is an elastomeric gel directly secured to the absorbent core and defines a pattern of apertures extending therethrough to the absorbent core;

wherein opposed segments of the border portion have greater skin adherence than the remaining areas of the border portion.

Claim 25. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

a vapor permeable substrate having opposed proximal and distal surfaces;

a skin adherent facing layer connected to at least a portion of the proximal surface of the substrate, the facing layer defining a center portion and a border portion bordering the center portion in an adjacent side-by-side manner;

wherein the center portion is formed from a generally hydrophobic silicone-based material and defines a plurality of apertures extending therethrough formed irrespective of the proximal surface of the substrate;

wherein the border portion has a greater degree of skin adherence than the center portion.

Claim 26 (New). The wound dressing according to claim 25, wherein the border portion is generally non-apertured.

Claim 27 (New). The wound dressing according to claim 25, wherein the facing layer is secured to the entirety of the substrate such that peripheral edges of the facing layer and the substrate are coextensive.